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SENATE BILL 278
By Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 221, Part 4, relative to subsurface sewage disposal systems.

WHEREAS, scientific testing of disposal systems by Tennessee Technological University has determined that effluent filters effectively decrease solids carryover to the absorption field by an average of thirty percent (30%) or more, resulting in a longer life for the absorption field, saving the property owner potentially thousands of dollars and protecting the environment; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 221, Part 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 68-221-418.

(a) An approved effluent filter shall be required for each new subsurface sewage disposal system that utilizes a pump for the distribution delivery of effluent to the disposal system. An approved effluent filter shall also be installed in each repaired subsurface sewage disposal system requiring a permit pursuant to this part. To be approved, effluent filters shall meet the following criteria:

(1) Filtration devices for gravity flow septic systems must be certified by NSF International or an organization accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to determine compliance with the requirements of ANSI/NSF standard 46 *Evaluation of Components and Devices Used in Wastewater Treatment Systems*, including Section 10 of Standard *46 Filtration devices for residential gravity flow septic systems*.

(2) Filters must have acceptable third-party documentation demonstrating an average reduction of thirty percent (30%) in total suspended solids (TSS) over conventional tees and baffles.

(3) Effluent filter housings must provide the equivalent protection of a standard outlet tee or baffle in the event that the filter cartridge is removed.

(4) Effluent filters must prevent solids larger than three thirty-seconds (3/32) inch in diameter from passing under two (2) inches of hydrostatic load.

(5) Manufacturer's specifications must be used to adequately size the filter to meet or exceed the anticipated hydraulic or organic loading.

(b) All septic tank applications shall have ground level access ports sized and located to facilitate the installation, removal, sampling, examination, maintenance and servicing of components (effluent filters) that require maintenance and inspection.

(1) Access risers must have a minimum opening of 16 inches (16") in diameter.

(2) Access cover(s) must be designed, constructed, and maintained to prevent unauthorized access. Acceptable protective measures include, but are not limited to:

(A) Padlock;

(B) Cover(s) that can be removed only with specialized tools; or

(C) Cover(s) having a minimum net weight of 29.5 kilograms (65 pounds).

(3) Risers must have acceptable third-party documentation demonstrating a uniform loading rate of two thousand (2000) pounds per square foot, without loss of structural integrity.

(4) Risers must be watertight. Third-party testing must prove that the risers and cover(s) can hold a vacuum of two and one-half inches (2 ½") of mercury (Hg) for a period of at least ten (10) minutes with no more than a five percent (5%) increase.

(5) Plastic access risers and cover(s) must have documentation that UV protection is molded in these units.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.